

Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for granular management of network resources by accessing network device resources through associated

references. In one embodiment, the references are group names, and one or more

5 resources (i.e., a resource collection) within each network device in a

telecommunications network may be linked with one or more group names. Group

names (or other types of references) may then be used to limit a user's access to

particular network device resources. That is, a user may only have access to those

resources associated with group names to which the user has access. Over time,

10 network device resources may be associated or disassociated with particular group

names. As a result, group names provide users with dynamic access to network

device resources. In one embodiment, the groups to which a user has access are

defined within a user profile associated with the user. Grouping network device

resources, therefore, allows for a granular view of each network device in the network

15 by limiting a user's access to those resources corresponding to group names listed in

their user profile. As one example, grouping may allow for customer network

management – that is a customer's view is limited to only those network device

resources for which they have subscribed.

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